



Grand Central

West End Elementary School

In each bi-monthly issue of "Grand Central," the Central Regional Office (CRO) will feature a school or a school district in one of the six counties in the Central Region. For this issue, we visited West End Elementary School in the Long Branch School District (Monmouth County) and interviewed the principal, Dr. Gloria Rotella.

Success for All (SFA) is the whole school reform model used in the Long Branch School District and the children at West End Elementary School take the program very seriously. They walk quietly



Dr. Rotella and three fifth graders

through the halls as they move to their first-period classes. The music in the background is coming from the principal's office. The strains of a march, which repeats SFA, SFA, motivates and cheers.

During the first-period class, the principal, Dr. Gloria Rotella, does her morn-

ing "walk about." The children greet her and show her what they are working on. They are proud of their work and engrossed in their books. A couple of children ask what time they are having their "Lunch Bunch" discussion with Dr. Rotella. They know that during their discussion with "Doc" they will have a chance to be heard and to feel important. They also know that at the end of lunch they can choose a book as a parting gift.

As Dr. Rotella moves through the hallways of the 100-year-old school building, she knows the names of many of the children and talks about their accomplishments with the pride of a parent. I asked

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Notes from Mike: Thoughts from Dr. Rush on Brown v. Board of Education

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the 1954 landmark Supreme Court decision—Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas.

The members of the Supreme Court voted unani-

mously that "...separate educational facilities are inherently unequal and, as such, violate the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution, which guarantees all citizens equal protection of the laws."

Teachers can find curriculum, best practices, booklists and resources on this decision on the NJDOE Web site at www.njpep.org and also on the National Park Service's Web site at www.nps.gov/brvb/.



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Special points of interest:

- ☉ Art and essay contests for students around the theme of *Brown v. Board of Education*
- ☉ Teacher-focused courses offered by Middlesex County and Union County ETTCs
- ☉ Submit your questions to *Notes from Mike at Grand Central@doe.state.nj.us*

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West End Elementary School in Long Branch

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her what the posters with the number 223 written on them meant. She says that is the West End School's magic number. There are 223 in this school of 309 grades 3 through 5 children who are at grade level. She is very proud of that number and motivates her teachers and students to raise the number.

There are numerous bulletin boards around the building attesting to the achievements of the students. The "Footsteps" bulletin board displays the names of books read by each class. At the end of the marking period, the class that has read the most pages at each grade level is rewarded. These are the

students' "Footsteps to Success." There is a similar bulletin board displaying achievements in mathematics, music, computer science, and other subjects.

Every classroom door has a sign reading PERFECT ATTENDANCE. Each day of perfect attendance, a letter is filled in. Once the entire sign is colored in, the class is treated to a pizza party. Is there any wonder that the attendance rate is 95% at West End School?

It was a pleasure visiting the West



End School in Long Branch. Dr. Rotella is a source of inspiration and motivation which permeates the entire building. The teachers at the school are active in the life of the school during and after class hours. Each classroom is cheerful and

bright with color and activity.

Thank you, Dr. Rotella, for your love of your students and dedication to the teaching/learning community.

By Genevieve Lumia

NCLB Quiz

How much do you really know about this federal law? Take this quiz to see how you rate.

- 1) Which of the following is not an NCLB subgroup?
 - A) Race and ethnicity
 - B) Limited English Proficient
 - C) Gender
 - D) Students with disabilities
- 2) Each state must establish a definition

of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) to measure:

- A) Student economic status
 - B) The extent to which programs are research-based
 - C) Performance on the Terra Nova test
 - D) Incremental progress of schools in reaching 100 percent proficiency.
- 3) By what school years must ALL groups achieve 100 percent proficiency on state assessments?

A) 2013-14

B) 2007-08

C) 2010-11

D) 2004-05

4) Under the NCLB Act, the term "in need of improvement" means the school has not met AYP for:

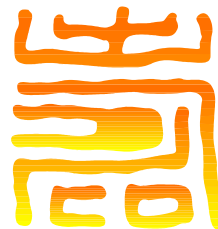
A) One school year

(Continued on page 4)

Lesson Study on Improving Instruction

Have you wondered about Lesson Study as a professional development plan for improving instruction? You probably know Lesson Study was developed in Japan and that it involves teachers working in teams to produce "study lessons" for use by the group. Here are some of the basic steps to the process:

(1) Forming a lesson study team; (2) Focusing the lesson study for research; (3) Planning the study lesson; (4) Preparing for observation by team members and "knowledgeable others"; (5) Teaching and observing the lesson; (6) Debriefing the lesson; and (7) Re-



flecting and planning the next steps.

If you want additional information about this process, contact Genevieve Lumia in the Central Region. She can be reached at (609) 633-8996 or by e-mail at GrandCentral@doe.state.nj.us.

News from the ETTCs

There are some good workshops available through our Educational Technology Training Centers in the Central Region. Listed below is a sampling from the Middlesex County ETTC on Rte. 18 in East Brunswick and from the Union County ETTC in Scotch Plains:

Middlesex County ETTC

Digital Day—learn how to use a digital camera. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 27 and May 20. Fee is \$115 or voucher.

Project-Based Activities for Math/Science Using Excel Grades 6-8.

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 13. Fee is \$115 or voucher.

Inspiration in the 5-12 Classroom.

Use of this visual learning tool is being offered 4 to 6:30 p.m. on March 4, May 3 and June 7. Fee is \$80 or voucher.

Kidspiration in the K-4 Classroom. A visual learning tool for younger students. Offered 4 to 6:30 p.m. March 25, May 4, June 9. \$80 or voucher.

Using Technology to Make Testing Accommodations. All day March 23. \$115 or voucher.

Differentiated Instruction: Using Technology to Enhance Student Performance. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 29. \$115 or voucher.

From Low-Tech to High-Tech: Supports that Work for Students with Learning Disabilities. All day on May 10 at a cost of \$115 or voucher.

Differentiated Learning and Inspiration: A Perfect Fit. All day on March 16 or May 11. \$115 or voucher.

Talking Books and Language Arts. For elementary classrooms using Microsoft PowerPoint software using sounds, animated graphics and hyper-



links. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 23. \$115 or voucher.

KidPix & the K-4 Core Curriculum Content Standards. 4 to 6:30 p.m. on April 14. \$80 or voucher.

Creating Online Literature Circles. 4 to 6:30 p.m. on May 19. \$80 or voucher.

For additional information about these courses, call 732-613-6609

Union County ETTC

Math and Technology. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., March 22. \$60.

Photos with Power. Create a timed slideshow; insert music and more. All day on March 23 or June 3. \$100

FrontPage XP-Intro. March 23 & 25, 4 to 6 p.m. \$100.

Word & Mail Merge. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., March 24 \$60.

MarcoPolo in Your Classroom. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., March 30 \$60

Scavenger Hunts. Design your own Internet scavenger hunts; find others on the Internet. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., April 1, \$60.

PowerPoint XP-Intermediate. 9 am to 3 p.m. April 6 \$100.

Creating Stickers & Other Fun Stuff.

Learn how to use Word to create stickers, magnets, labels, and more. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., April 7 \$60.

PowerPoint-Bells & Whistles. Learn about animation, sounds, video and fancy transitions and effects. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., April 20 \$100.

Integrating the Internet into your High School Curriculum. All curriculum areas will be covered from 4 to 6 p.m., April 21 \$60.

Integrating the Internet into your Elementary Classroom. On-line resources, lesson plans, and activities. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., April 21 \$75.

Inspiration in your Language Arts Classroom. 4 to 6 p.m., April 22 \$60.

Language Arts and Technology. 9 am to 3 pm, April 27 \$100

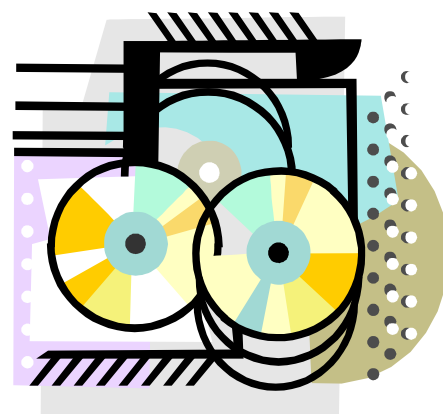
Portable, Wireless and not a Laptop. Use of AlphaSmart 300 and Dana devices. 4 to 6 p.m., April 28 \$60.

Excel-Intermediate. 9 am to 3 pm, April 29 \$75.

Social Studies and Technology. 4 to 6 p.m., April 29 \$60.

Word for Teachers who teach Math. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., April 30 \$100.

For additional information about these courses, call 908-889-3810



U.S. Dept. of Education Publishes Guide to Research-Based Educational Practice

The U. S. Department of Education has announced a practical guide to assist administrators and policy makers in evaluating "evidence-based" educational programs required by the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB). The law requires that states and districts use practices backed by scientifically rigorous studies. Until now, there has been no guidance in defining these new requirements.

The guidebook, developed by a nonpartisan group called the Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy out of Washington, D. C., advocates the use

of randomized field trials to evaluate programs. It gives recommendations for evaluating strong evidence of an intervention's effectiveness and possible effectiveness of a program. The guide also pans pre-post testing of the same group as an effective means of evaluation. Needless to say, there are critics of the randomized field trials type of study, as well. However, this guidebook gives us a way to look at evidence-based programs and is a start in the right direction.

You can access an online copy of this guide by using the following

url: www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/rigorousvid/index.html?exp=0.



The Center for Improved Engineering and Science Education

The Center for Improved Engineering and Science Education (CIESE) at Stevens Institute of Technology and the New Jersey Statewide Systemic Initiative (NJSSI) have announced a new professional development partnership opportunity available during the current school year. Through a grant, they are serving as a specialty site

for districts throughout New Jersey, offering a standards-based program called **Savvy Cyber Teacher** to high school teachers in New Jersey.

The site offers professional development to high school teachers by participating in a 10-part workshop series totaling 30 hours of professional development designed to assist teachers to integrate Internet-based

science and mathematics resources into their classrooms. Teachers are also invited to attend sessions focusing on mentor-teacher strategies and classroom support.

For more information or to sign up, contact Ronit Ehrlich, Special Projects Coordinator at 201-216-8066 or at rehrllich@stevens.edu

NCLB Quiz



Test your knowledge of NCLB!

(Continued from page 2)

- B) Two consecutive years
- C) Three consecutive years
- D) None of the above

5) *If a subgroup is identified as not having met AYP, but the percentage of students in that subgroup has decreased by 10 percent from the previous year, it is referred to as:*

- A) Meeting AYP

- B) Safe harbor
- C) Early warning
- D) None of the above.

5 Correct — Advanced Proficient

3-4 Correct — You made AYP!

2 Correct — In need of Improvement

0-1 Correct — You have been left behind.

Answers: 1)C, 2)D, 3)A, 4)B, 5) B

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The Department of Education, in collaboration with JP Morgan, is sponsoring "Keeping the Promise," an art contest and an essay contest to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education. Children in kindergarten through grade 6 are encouraged to send in their artwork, and children in grades 7 through 12 are encouraged to send in their essays illustrating why "separate can never be equal."

For details, e-mail NOS@doe.state.nj.us

New Teacher Institute

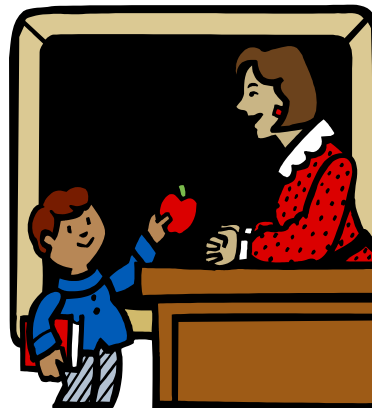
More than half of new teachers leave the profession within their first five years. The reason? Research indicates that new teachers feel overwhelmed by the expectations and scope of the job. Other sources cite teacher isolation as a major contributing factor.

In an effort to help districts address these issues, the Central Regional Office (CRO) is pleased to report a year-long series of professional development opportunities for teachers new to the profession. Teachers with fewer than five years' experience were invited to participate in this initiative beginning in October of 2003.

There was a full-day symposium

of workshops and activities on October 27th at DeVry University in Iselin. Topics covered included differentiated instruction, inclusion, classroom management, alignment of standards, online resources, and character education. In addition, each participating teacher received a year's subscription to Task Stream. Task Stream is a Web-based curriculum mapping tool which aids in lesson planning and promotes standards-based teaching.

Following the initial symposium,



sium, six voluntary workshops have been scheduled.

A registration fee of \$200 per teacher was required. Many districts were interested in participating but were unable to do so because of limited space. Those on this year's waiting list

will be the first to be able to register for the 2004-05 school year.

In October, 2004, CRO will be partnering with Rider University in Lawrenceville. For more information about next year's event, contact Genevieve Lumia at (609) 633-8996.
